



ST. EMILIE'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Growing in Grace

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SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Annual Community Meeting

25th February 2026

for the 2025 school year

Introduction

For those of you who do not know me, my name is **Leah Bishop**, and this has been my second and will be my final year with the Advisory Council of St Emilie's in the position of Chair.

As a bit of background, this forum, ACM, is an accountability mechanism to CEWA and to the wider St Emilie's community. This forum is a wonderful opportunity for the School Advisory Council to report on our work throughout the year and to thank key stakeholders.

Once again, St Emilie's has much to celebrate and be proud of as we have achieved so much this past year.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge and thank the people whom I have worked alongside throughout the year.

Our 2025 serving **Advisory Council Members** were:

Council Members 2025

1. Leah Bishop - Chairperson
2. Stephanie Malelo - Secretary
3. Melinda Curren - Deputy Chair
4. Nicole Grima - active member
5. Chris Day - active member
6. Beau Jose - active member

Ex Officio Members 2025

7. Father Jean-Noel Marie - Parish Priest
8. Chris Burns - Principal
9. Stuart Munro - Assistant Principal
10. Sara Tonkin - Assistant Principal
11. Gillian Norris - School Bursar

Thank You

Thank you to our Advisory Members and Secretary

I would like to sincerely thank all Advisory Council members for your consistent presence at meetings and for the thoughtful contributions you have made, both individually and collectively. Your careful consideration and measured discussion of the matters before us have strengthened our decision-making and supported the school's direction throughout the year.

Thank you, Chris

Your enthusiasm and commitment continue to shine through in everything you do. We see each day the positive example you set through your leadership. The way you lead supports and guides our entire school community — students, staff and families alike — and we are grateful for your steady presence.

Thank you, Stuart and Sara

A heartfelt thank you to Stuart and Sara from the Advisory Council for your commitment, care and steady leadership. The time and attention you give to every discussion help ensure that decisions are guided by what is best for the school and its community. Your ongoing contribution is genuinely valued and deeply appreciated.

Thank you, Gillian

As always, thank you, Gillian, our School Bursar, for your keen eye and meticulous attention to detail. Your careful stewardship ensures that St Emilie's remains not only financially sound but strongly positioned for the future. Your work behind the scenes plays a vital role in setting the school up for continued success in all it seeks to achieve for our school community.

Thank you to our Staff

The Advisory Council extends its appreciation to every staff member at St Emilie's. Your hard work, professionalism and authentic pastoral care make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and families. Each of you plays a vital role in shaping our school community and strengthening the connection between school and home.

Thank you to our Families

We sincerely thank St Emilie's families for your continued support throughout 2025. Each year, we are fortunate to see both familiar and new faces generously contributing to school life. Your involvement, encouragement and commitment help ensure the ongoing success of St Emilie's and bring a unique and valued spirit to our community.

The Work of the School Advisory Council in 2025

Throughout 2025, St Emilie's has continued to live out its guiding value, *"We strive for excellence,"* across the domains of Catholic Identity, Education, Community and Stewardship.

Catholic Identity

The school and parish partnership remains strong, highlighted by celebrations of Confirmation, First Holy Communion, Reconciliation and St Emilie's Feast Day. The updated CEWA Religious Education Framework has been introduced, and our Catholic Identity Domain Team continues to strengthen the Fruits of the Holy Spirit Program.

Education

Students have performed above the national mean in NAPLAN (Years 3 and 5), with staff continuing to analyse data to drive growth. A wide range of co-curricular opportunities — including Performing Arts, Interschool sport, Chess, Lego League and Growth Hunting — support the development of the whole child. Planning is underway for a 2026 Three Year Old Kindy program, with strong community interest and CEWA approval secured.

Community

Community engagement remains a strength, with events such as the Colour Run (raising approximately \$12,000), International Day of Friendship, Parent Circle and strong P&F involvement. The introduction of Lucy, our School Wellbeing Dog, and continued focus on the URSTRONG framework reflect our commitment to student wellbeing. Enrolment demand remains strong, with a full Kindy cohort confirmed for 2026.

Stewardship

The school remains financially stable, with the 2026 budget prepared and submitted. School fees will increase by 4.5% to maintain current standards of care. Significant maintenance and infrastructure works have been completed across the school, with further upgrades planned. The Strategic Plan *"Toward 2030"* is in its final stages and will launch in early 2026.

Overall, 2025 has been a year of growth, strong academic outcomes, community connection and careful stewardship, positioning St Emilie's well for the future.

Accountability For All Council Members (Annual Training)

CEWA required each Council member to register for Mandatory Reporting training. This happens on an annual basis. St Emilie's, and all Catholic Schools need to meet registration standards and other compliance obligations, including Mandatory Reporting, Codes of Conduct for staff and students, protective behaviours curriculum, training for staff and students, and information for parents and carers. This was successfully completed by all and a more streamlined administrative approach has been adopted to make reporting of these tasks simpler going forward.

School Maintenance & Improvement

Sometimes we can overlook **the number** of additions and upgrades the school introduces. Some of the great improvements we can see around the school, while others remain quiet achievers, here is a list of a few items from 2025:

- Major Tree Pruning
- Cleaning of play sand
- Servicing of the water fountains
- Replacement of lights around the school with energy efficient LEDs
- Installation of new air conditioning
- Additional seating and a rearrangement of the staffroom to accommodate the increasing staff numbers in 2025.
- Deep clean of school toilets
- Car park upgrades
- New decking near the Year Five Class
- Installation of a gate at the front of the school for security
- Upgrades to share clothes on playgrounds

Strategic Plan

Last but certainly not least, the Strategic Plan *“Growing in Grace Towards 2030”* was finalised and launched this year. This plan represents the culmination of extensive consultation, reflection and prayerful discernment. It has been shaped by the thoughtful contributions of countless members of our community — children, staff, families, parish representatives, Advisory Council members and leadership. Many voices, ideas and perspectives were shared throughout the process, with robust discussion, careful consideration and genuine collaboration underpinning its development. The Plan reflects not only our aspirations for excellence, but also our shared commitment to faith, learning, wellbeing and stewardship.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed their time and insights to this important work. *“Growing in Grace Towards 2030”* will now serve as a clear and purposeful guide for the next five years, ensuring that St Emilee’s continues to flourish and respond thoughtfully to the needs of our community.

Working with St Emilie's Parish

Father Jean-Noel Marie has continued to work closely with the School Leadership Team throughout 2025. While his many commitments mean he is not always able to attend Council meetings, there remains a strong and collaborative partnership between the parish and the school. This ensures the smooth delivery of the parish-led, school-supported Sacramental Program and reflects a shared commitment to serving our community well.

Father Jean-Noel, thank you for your vibrant presence, wisdom and steadfast support — particularly of the Leadership Team throughout the year. Your guidance is deeply valued. Your homilies at school and parish Masses have brought inspiration and comfort to us all, both individually and as a community.

Staffing

Staff who left in 2025

We bid a fond farewell to Mr Ben Hewitt and Mrs Sarika Srivastava, wishing the very best in their new chapters.

Staff who joined in 2026

2026 sees two new staff members Mrs Jessica Cullen and Mrs Jenny Mair-Wieman join our staff as Kindy Class Teacher and School Psychologist, respectively. We warmly welcome them to St Emilie's and wish them a wonderful and fulfilling first year as part of our school community.

Closing Comments:

As we reflect on the 2025 school year, I do so with deep gratitude for the outstanding contributions of our children, staff, families, leaders and parish community. Together, you continue to shape the strong ethos and vibrant culture that make our school so special. I have truly valued my time serving as Chair of the Advisory Council.

I warmly encourage other parents to consider joining the Council in the future. It is a meaningful way to serve the school community, gain insight into the broader matters facing the school, and build lasting connections with others who share a commitment to St Emilie's.

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to contribute in this role, and I sincerely thank you for the opportunity. I wish everyone continued health, success and happiness in the year ahead.

Kind regards

Leah Bishop

St Emilie's Advisory Council Chairperson